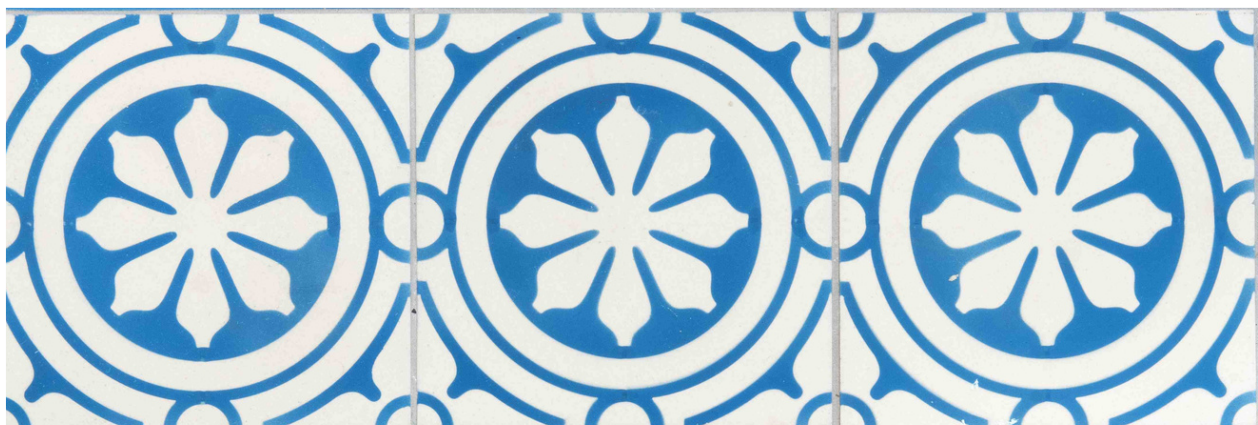


Accompanying materials
to the tour

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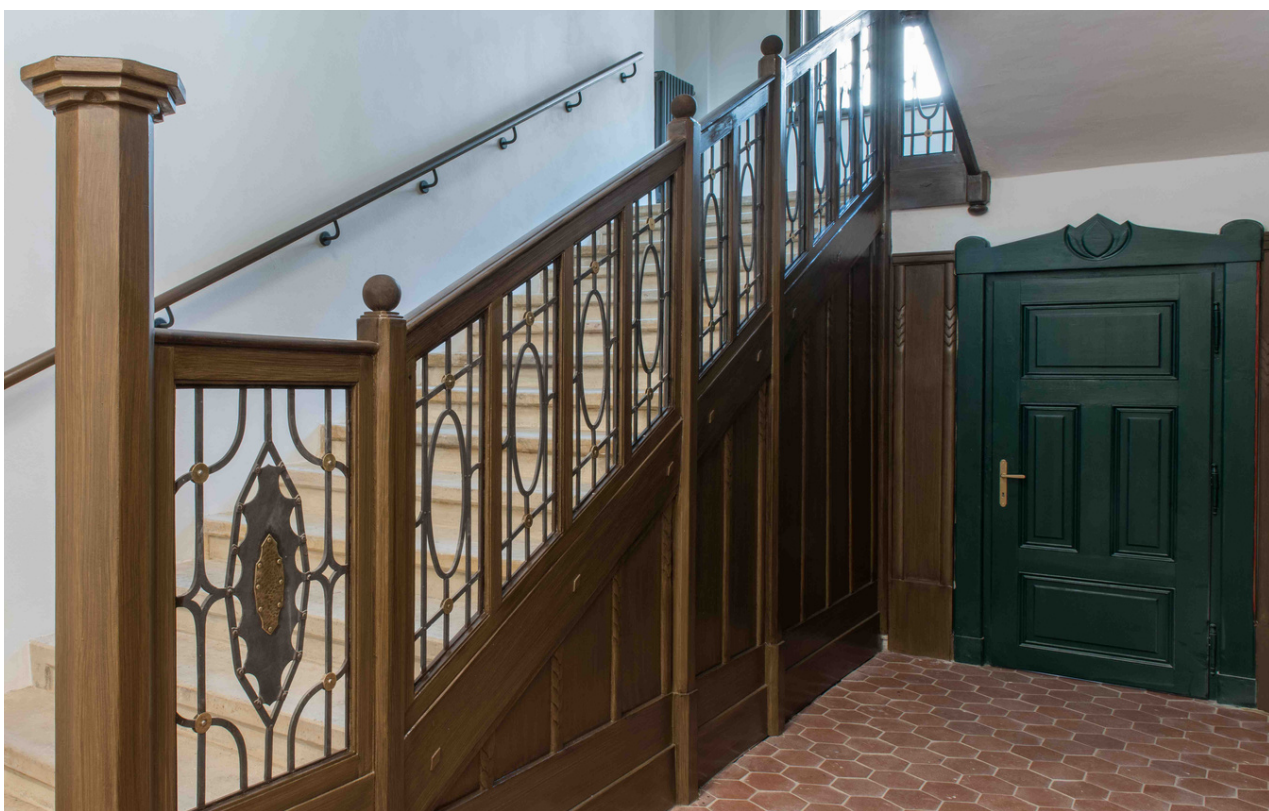
Arnold Villa



Muzeum města Brna

| Arnoldova vila

Welcome to the Arnold Villa, one of the buildings managed by the Brno City Museum. It is one of the oldest villas of this colony located in the Black Fields (Černá Pole). Its significance lies mainly in the urban context of the oldest historical buildings above Lužánky. The Art Deco style of the villa with Art Nouveau elements, including the craftsmanship of the last construction activity, is a very fine example of period architecture. Many authentic elements have been preserved in the house, although not the interior furnishings. After the World War II, all furniture and other furnishings were either destroyed or lost, and as no photographs documenting the interior spaces have survived, we do not know what the original spaces used to look like.



Please now climb the stairs up to the Arnold Tower.

ARNOLD TOWER

The space you have now entered probably served as a study overlooking the city centre full of the builder's houses, or it was a viewing point just as it is now. We have a view of the city centre with Špilberk Castle as its landmark. In the tower itself, you can see a model of the development of the villa colony with the construction stages, and you can also compare the development with the aerial photograph on the display panel included within the exhibition called Genius Loci. To get an idea of who built this building and all the people who lived in it, we need to

know the time and place of its construction. We are in a villa colony in the Černé Pole district. The establishment of the villa colony in this area is related to the rapid development of the town in the 19th century. At that time, industry expanded thanks to the presence of the railway, which provided passenger and freight transport on the Vienna-Břeclav-Brno route. The city of Brno, which was at the forefront of the textile industry for almost three centuries, was associated with the phenomenon of the so-called Moravian Manchester.



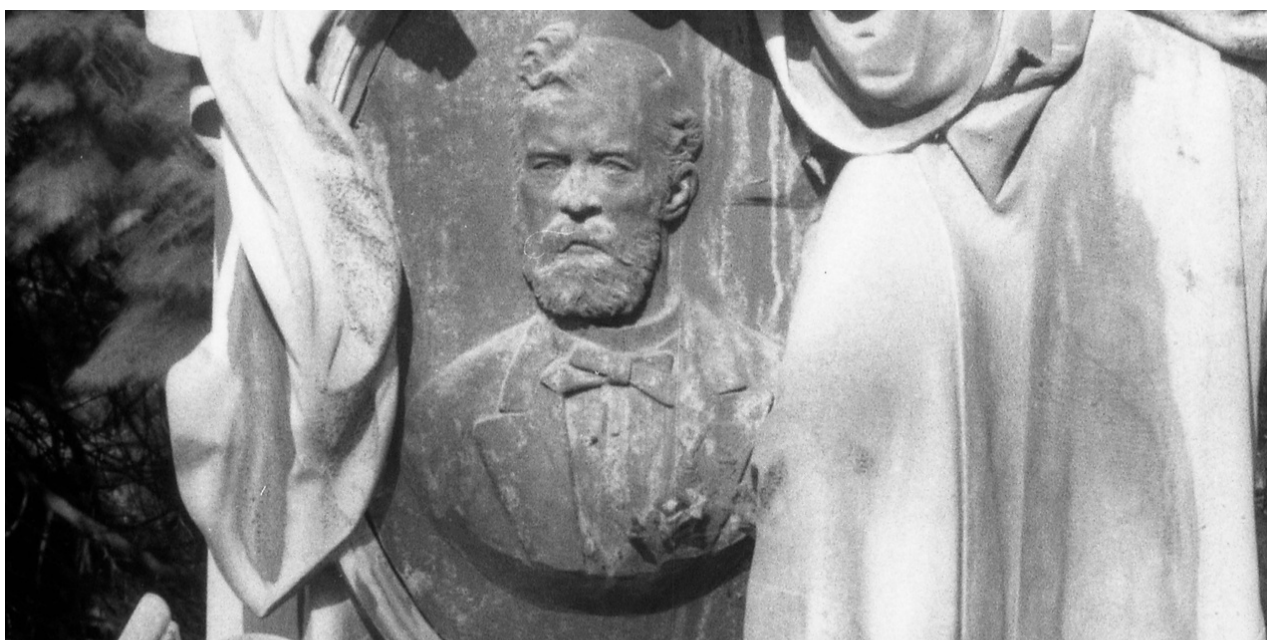
Arnold tower

We will now be most interested in the demolition of the walls. Following the example of Vienna, the Brno city councillors had the local walls demolished due to their obsolescence, thus creating a unique opportunity to build a representative street. Part of the walls around Špilberk had already been removed under Napoleon and in 1852 Brno ceased to have the status of a fortified military town. This meant that the walls could be demolished, which was done throughout the 1850s.

To give you an idea, if you arrived here by train, for example, you were already in the area of the former walls. There was the so-called Jewish Gate. After the demolition of these walls, the town was able to break free and grow into the surrounding area, including the part of Černá Pole where we are now. Černá Pole (The Black Fields, Schwarzfild in German), as the name suggests, was very agricultural in nature and previously there were only roads leading to the villages that eventually became part of Brno. Down below the hill we would have found a pond and also the Lužánky Park (German: Augarten), which was founded by Joseph II and is the oldest public park in the country. In 1860, Brno city councillors decided to establish a villa colony in this area and very soon in other attractive locations, such as the valley of the Svatka River in Pisárky.

The Černé Pole district is unique in that it is one of the first villa-type districts in Central Europe. In the second half of the 19th century, the slope above Lužánky was covered with vineyards and orchards. Houses like Arnold Villa were built for the townspeople as summer apartments outside the town, only later becoming permanent housing with a “good address”. The townspeople were also the guests you would most often meet in this area. Arnold villa was the second villa built in this villa district, soon followed by others. A total of three were built in this area – this was the first, followed by Giskra and Adamčík villas. This three-villa project was also reported in the contemporary press, which is a testimony to its importance for the local community. What made this district so attractive that villas of wealthy bourgeoisie were built here? One advantage was the proximity to the centre, which is still attractive today. A more important reason was that the villas were already in the nature above Lužánky. We have to remember that there were hardly any buildings in the surroundings and the houses here served as holiday homes. At that time, one of the most precious things about this location was the fresh air – there was not much of it in the industrial towns, and houses on the hills above the natural river bends (in this case the Ponávka River) seemed to be an ideal escape from the city air polluted by factories.

JOSEF ARNOLD



Portrait medallion of Josef Arnold on his tombstone from 1888 at the Central Cemetery in Brno, state in 1987 (not preserved), photo by Jaroslav Holáň, archive of the National Heritage Institute, ÚOP Brno

The builder, Josef Arnold, was born in Ingolstadt, Bavaria, in 1824, where he attended an industrial school and learned the trade of mason and bricklayer. He studied architecture in Munich and, after a year in Regensburg, moved to Vienna to work in the studio of the famous architect Heinrich von Ferstel. Ferstel worked on a number of buildings on the Ringstrasse in Vienna. He also sent Josef Arnold to Brno, most probably because of contracts for the construction of the new Brno ring road. The Bavarian-born builder and architect was so successful in Brno

that he settled and married here. In 1853 he married Katharina, the widow of the master stonemason Johann Wessely, which helped him to quickly establish himself as a builder and stonemason. In addition to the building yard, which together with the house in Koliště he acquired by marriage, Josef Arnold also owned brickworks, stone quarries, stone workshops and a sample shop for building materials. He quickly made a name for himself in Brno as a respected builder and won a large number of positions and awards for his work.

JOSEF ARNOLD

He was involved in the construction of a number of buildings in Brno – among them we can mention the Red Church according to Heinrich von Ferstel's plans, or the Municipal (Mahen) Theatre by Fellner and Helmer; among his own designs we can mention the Kounic Palace on Moravské náměstí.

Josef Arnold died on 12 April 1887 at the age of 62 and was buried in the Central Cemetery after the ceremonies in the St. James Cathedral.

What were the circumstance of Josef Arnold and his wife buying this villa?

In 1862, Josef and Katharina Arnold bought a long narrow plot of land on a slope above Lužánky, situated between today's Drobného and Černopolní streets, partly planted with vineyards.

The construction of the house was very fast-paced and worthy of attention. On 26 March, according to the purchase contract, they became the owners of the land, and the plans of Josef Arnold's villa itself are marked with the same date. They did not have to wait long for approval; the building committee met on 31 March and on 7 April the building permit was issued. The local press reported on 17 May that the villa had been built and was awaiting the installation of the roof trusses. If the rapid pace of construction work was maintained, the villa could be used from the summer of 1862.

Although we call the building a villa, it was not exactly a villa in the true sense of the word at that time. It is a separate building with a garden, but it is more suburban in the Italian sense. These were villas in the suburbs that were located in nature and served the purpose of a summer residence. That is to say, they were smaller, used for recreation and only complemented the main residence of their owner in the city centre. The Arnolds lived at Tereziino koliště 7 (now Koliště 43), a house with a construction company office, originally owned by Johann Wessely.

If we were to visit the villa as Josef Arnold's guests, it would have been during the summer months for some informal meetings, as serious business matters would have been dealt with in the aforementioned house on Koliště, where the office was also located. Today, however, this building is no longer standing as it had to give way to newer developments.



After you have seen the tower and enjoyed the view, you can continue the tour by descending from the Arnold Tower and entering the attic.



ATTIC

Immediately upon entering the attic you can see the beautiful veduta of Brno created according to the artist František Richter, who drew it in the 1920s. The view portrayed here is roughly where we are now. We can imagine what the local area looked like before the construction of the surrounding buildings – a largely undeveloped landscape, on the bottom right you can see the pond (Hutter pond), which was drained shortly after the drawing was made and a new square was created there, today náměstí 28. října.



After viewing the veduta of Brno, you can move on to the panels about Josef Arnold.

Twenty years later, the aging couple Josef and Katharina Arnold decided to sell their suburban house and garden. This happened in 1883 and the villa was sold to Charlotte Martini. Thirteen years later, the villa was sold again, to Albertina Antonia Langer (sometimes sources say Lange), and in March 1909 it was purchased by Cäcilie Hože, who was the last private owner of the villa. She was the wife of Cornelius Hože, a wealthy Brno lawyer and businessman, co-shareholder of the Maloměřice brickworks and cement factory. The purchase price of the property with all the facilities, i.e. the lower building, greenery, garden furniture, central heating and electrical wiring, was CZK 120,000, which in today's money value is something around CZK 50 million (EUR 2 million). Soon after the purchase of the villa in March 1909, the Hože family modified and extended it in a late Art Nouveau geometric style influenced by the contemporary revival of Biedermeier, which can also be considered an early manifestation of Art Deco.

Thanks to central heating and electrical wiring, the villa could now be occupied all year round. We can still see the details of the changes in the richly decorated cast-iron heaters, door and window frames, decorative tiles from Rako or the stucco decor on the ceilings. The main entrance you came in through also dates to the time of these alterations – another addition was a glassed-in wooden patio. The kitchen and bedrooms were also expanded and the facades were changed, which you explore after the tour, along with the garden, which during the lifetime of its former owners resembled an English park with gazebos and pavilions with garden furniture.

There was an effort to preserve as many of the original wooden beams here in the attic as possible. It also allows you to be outside and yet inside the building. The attic space where you are now did not exist at the time of the builder Josef Arnold and only the tower stood out from the roof. You can see a section of its original outer masonry at the so-called Archaeological Window.

The Arnold Tower was completed, like the rest of the building, in the summer of 1862, including the trusses and roof structure. The tower stood out from the mass of the building and was inspired by North German architecture, which the half-timbered structure is intended to resemble.



Archaeological Window

What does a half-timbered structure mean? The walls are made of vertical and horizontal beams, and this frame is filled with a material with no load-bearing function – burnt bricks. Inside, it is then supplemented with reed mesh on which plaster is applied.

The Archaeological Window, as we can see it now, beautifully illustrates how the villa was modified during Căcilie Hože's ownership. More information about Căcilie Hože can be found within the History of Arnold Villa exhibition here in the attic. Photographs of the Hože family and further information about the fate of its members are also displayed one floor below as part of the Jews in Brno exhibition.



Detail of cordon wooden ledge with profiled brackets

CÄCILIE HOŽE

Cäcilie Hože was six years older than her brother Alfred Löw-Beer and therefore the aunt of Grete, later married to Tugendhat. Her brother Alfred Löw-Beer also bought a villa in the area above Lužánky near Cäcilie Hože's villa. In 1913 he managed to buy a terraced house on Sadová Street (now Drobného 22). The upper part of the huge plot extending up to Černopolní Street was given to Alfred's daughter Grete as a wedding present. There she and her husband Fritz Tugendhat built an exclusive functionalist villa, designed by the renowned architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, between 1928 and 1930. The gardens of the three villas, which belonged to the related Hože, Löw-Beer and Tugendhat families, were (and are again) connected. This created a kind of familial precinct on the slope of the Černé Pole hill. Unfortunately, this coexistence did not last long; Jewish property was confiscated by the Gestapo at the beginning of the war, and the inhabitants of the villas had to flee, go into hiding, or face a violent end to their lives.

The Hože family's villa was seized in October 1939, Cäcilie died in 1942 in Terezín and her son Max and his wife Friederike were killed probably in the same year in Majdanek. The only one who managed to avoid the hardships of the Holocaust was Cornelius Hože, as he had died in 1936.

HISTORY OF VILLA

After the World War II (1946–1948), the villa fell under the national administration and later under the administration of the Housing Enterprises of the City of Brno. The modern history of Arnold Villa began in 1951, when it was decided to adapt it for the needs of a kindergarten. The history of the kindergarten can be found on the exhibition panels in the alcove. You can see the construction changes on the model of the villa. During the reconstruction, a number of objects were found and can be seen in the drawers located under the model of the Arnold Villa. The Arnold Villa was one of the first villas built in the newly formed villa district in Černé Pole.

The builder of the villa was Josef Arnold – a prominent figure who participated in the construction of many buildings in Brno, most of which still exist today. Floor plans of selected buildings by Arnold and a portrait from the tombstone of this builder can be seen in the exhibition History of the Arnold Villa. Apart from partial building modifications between 1883 and 1909, the building was not significantly altered until 1909, when Cäcilie Hože became the owner. At that time, both the interior furnishings and the house itself were changed, with the addition of a porch, an expanded kitchen on the ground floor and a bedroom upstairs.



Model of the Arnold Villa



Now head downstairs to find an installation about the Jews in Brno.

JEWS IN BRNO

You have arrived at the exhibition space of the Arnold Villa. The current exhibition tells us about the life and work of the Jewish community in Brno. The story of the Jews in Moravia was not continuous. Following the development of the medieval towns, a decline came in the form of the expulsion of Jewish inhabitants from the royal towns, including Brno. A new era of Jewish settlement in Brno came only in the second half of the 19th century, when medieval restrictions were lifted and Jews were allowed to settle unhindered in the inner city of Brno. Brno attracted especially Jewish textile entrepreneurs, and it was thanks to them that many of the enterprises that made Brno famous were established. The room you have entered is intended to present the history of the Jews in Moravia. You can watch the accompanying projection mapping on this topic, which you can start by pressing the button behind the main door. In the left room, important local Jewish figures are introduced, including Cäcilie Hože and her family, providing more in-depth information about them. In the right section you will then see religious objects used in synagogues in various ceremonies in the past and today.



Traditional Jewish male head covering (Heb. kippah), Torah - the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Five Books of Moses) and a large prayer shawl (Heb. talit).



After viewing the exhibition, you can continue to the ground floor.

GROUND FLOOR

In 2012, the building was closed for structural reasons and general dilapidation, even threatened with demolition. Thanks to the efforts of some councillors and later the management of the Brno North Municipality, the Josef Arnold Cultural Centre Association and the Statutory City of Brno, the building was declared a cultural monument. The Brno City Museum became the new administrator of the villa and created the project “Centre for Dialogue – Rescue and Rehabilitation of the Arnold Villa”.

In 2020, the museum successfully applied for funding from the European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway funds, and the project was significantly supported by the Statutory City of Brno. The total cost exceeded CZK 120 million and another CZK 25 million was spent on the reconstruction of the garden. Today, the villa serves as a centre for dialogue, where the common history and culture of Brno are to be presented. We have a library, spaces for educational programmes and a conference hall. The Arnold Villa is not meant to serve as a space with originals or even replicas, where one must not touch anything, but it is meant to be a living place that teaches us in different ways about the coexistence of different cultures in one place. After all, the life stories of Josef Arnold and Cäcilie Hože themselves beautifully reflect our interest in presenting this coexistence.

During your tour of the ground floor, the painted decoration on the walls will definitely catch your eye – fragments of hand-painted wallpaper of various ages have been found in many places. The stencil décor on the walls is inspired by their pattern. In most of the rooms the colour scheme has been preserved, but the stencil pattern is of recent date. Unlike today, when all the walls are white, the colours here are more interesting with darker shades like ochre and blue, mint and other shades of green. In the 19th century the interior was quite dark, most likely decorated by hand-painted wallpapers and with highly decorative stucco ceilings in all the representative rooms. We assume that the house had fine parquet floors and was furnished with solid wooden furniture and carpets. In the early 20th century, when the house underwent an extension, the interior was considerably brightened by larger windows, a niche and a newly redesigned sunroom with Rako tiles.

The period colour scheme of the walls and furniture shifted to pastel tones in the Art Nouveau and Art Deco style. It is certainly worth noting the use of the same type of brass door and window handles in the main salon and adjoining rooms on the ground floor as are found in architect Dušan Jurkovič's own villa in Brno-Žabovřesky, built in 1906. Among the contemporary technical standards were, for example, windows with a mechanism for opening ventilation wings, external wooden blinds to protect from the sun controlled from the inside (leather or linen belts), a dumbwaiter, etc. What is also beautiful and worth noticing are the door frames and decorated handles, all of which can help fill in the blanks of what the rooms roughly looked like.



Details of the ground floor decoration





After the tour, you can visit our café or garden, which is open to the public during the opening hours of the Arnold Villa. You can also visit other buildings in Brno belonging to our museum, namely the nearby Villa Tugendhat or Špilberk Castle with its wide range of activities. As you could see during the tour, the villa is still a place full of life, with many interesting events happening all the time. If you don't want to miss anything, make sure to keep an eye on the cultural programme available on our website and social media.



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